PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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May Day 2022

WORSCESTER, MA

COLOMBIA

Long Live the Working Class!

★Worscester...3
★Haiti...4
★Mexico...4
★Pakistan...4
★Colombia...5

Protect abortion, abort capitali$m

See article next issue

NEW YORK CITY, MAY 14—Thousands marched across the Brooklyn Bridge to demand access to abortion and healthcare. The PLP contingent of members and friends led chants of “No justice in a capitalist system!” and “these sexist courts—shut it down.” Over 100 CHALLENGEs were distributed

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

★**EDITORIAL** *Disarm capitalist butchers with communist revolution..p2*

★**NEW YORK CITY** *Racist bosses further displace homeless workers...p5*

★ **LETTERS** *Put communism in students’ hands...6*

★**COMMUNIST HISTORY** *The Cultural Revolution Uprising for Workers’ Power...p8*

SCAN ME

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Buffalo Massacre

Disarm capitalist butchers with communist revolution

Armed with a military-grade assault rifle and the rulers' racist ideas, Payton Gendron, an 18-year-old monster created by capitalism, traveled 200 miles to Buffalo, New York, to murder Black people. Donned in body armor, he began firing in the parking lot at Tops Friendly Market—the only supermarket in Buffalo's largest Black neighborhood—before walking inside. He shot 13 of our working-class brothers and sisters, 11 of them Black. Ten were killed; the killer, treated far more carefully by the kkkops than many unarmed Black workers, was arrested without a scratch.

By then the camera attached to Gendron's helmet had livestreamed the atrocity to a popular gaming platform. Like photographs of lynchings in the early 1900s, the graphic footage found a ready audience. The butchery drew more than three million views, and was still generating revenue for Facebook a full day later. Under capitalism, the bosses' media and social media eagerly amplify the profit system's racist terror.

Segregation and slaughter

Racist slaughters are anything but random amid the rot and segregation of capitalist society. According to the 2020 census, there are only 48 Black people in Gendron's hometown of Conklin, barely one percent of the population. While it's been widely reported that the killer waded into online cesspools of racism, Broome County and Central New York State have their own long history of racist terror (New York Times, 5/22):

> *[I]n the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan briefly relocated its state headquarters from New York City to Binghamton….In 2018, swastikas were found spray-painted on walls at Binghamton High School. Last winter, a Black teacher at Windsor High School, a short drive from Conklin, complained after students in the mostly white community dressed in racist costumes for a "Gangsta Night" at a school basketball game. And in Oneonta, a rural community between Binghamton and Albany, two students were filmed firing a gun at a picture of Martin Luther King Jr. while shouting racial slurs…*
>
> *[A]fter the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, racial tensions ran high again in Binghamton….Hundreds turned out to protest in June 2020, said Shanel Boyce, who helped organize the event. As the protesters gathered, Ms. Boyce recalled, others showed up dressed in tactical gear and carrying guns, standing nearby to watch. "They shouted and spat at us, saying: 'Go back to where you're from,'" said Ms. Boyce, who is Black. "The racism here is commonplace."*

In other words, Broome County—which Jim Crow Joe Biden carried over Donald Trump in the 2020 elections—is typical of a sick and decaying capitalist society.

Racist Biden rides to liberal bosses' rescue

The Big Fascists, the dominant finance capitalists of the U.S. ruling class, sent Biden to Buffalo two days after the massacre to proclaim that "white supremacy will never have the last word." But this is the same arch-racist who wrote the bipartisan 1994 Crime Bill that intensified racist attacks on Black and Latin workers, one of several Biden-sponsored laws that led to the New Jim Crow of mass incarceration (Vox, June 2020). As a new senator, he worked hand-in-hand with segregationist politicians like Mississippi's James Eastland to attack school busing for integration. Biden's latest budget proposal would hand out an additional $30 billion to shore up state and local police departments across the U.S. Here is the liberal bosses' answer to mad dogs like Payton Gendron: attacks on Black and Latin workers will be controlled and organized by the state.

Taking his cue from Biden, Byron Brown, Buffalo's Black mayor, is pushing to increase the budget for Buffalo's cops, the same state terrorists who fractured a 75-year-old protestor's skull in one of the mass demonstrations against the police murder of George Floyd. Like Eric Adams, Lori Lightfoot, Ras Baraka, and a long train of Black mayors and police chiefs, Brown is a class traitor who serves and protects the interests of finance capital.

These Big Fascist bosses, the ones who control the Democratic Party, are an even greater danger to our class than open racists like Trump or Tucker Carlson, or the gun-toting white nationalist militias that do their bidding. The Small Fascist Republicans have paralyzed Congress and seized the U.S. Supreme Court. They promote virulent sexism, racist vigilantism, and the "Great Replacement Theory," the Nazi myth that spurred Gendron to shoot and kill as many Black workers as he could. But at least for now, the liberal Big Fascists still control the police and the military. They're the ones leading the charge toward an inter-imperialist war with rivals China and Russia. They will stop at nothing to protect their global profits. Both Big Fascists and Small Fascists use racism to build fascism. They use electoral politics to offer themselves up as the solution for the danger of the other side.

The long-term strategy of the U.S. ruling class is to keep white workers' allegiance with a few reform crumbs while turning their misery under capitalist life into anger against their Black and immigrant working-class sisters and brothers—to exploit, divide, and conquer. These bosses and their rotten system can be defeated only by a mass communist movement, a movement for workers' power. We cannot smash racism and sexism until we put capitalism in its grave.

Multiracial fightback

Buffalo has a long history of multiracial unity in the fight against racism, dating back to its days as the last stop before Canada on the Underground Railroad. By hosting the Niagara Movement in 1905, a conference organized by W.E.B. Du Bois and other anti-segregationists, Buffalo gave birth to the modern civil rights movement. The city has a proud history of militant class struggle that won significant gains for industrial workers. It was in Buffalo, in 1962, that the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM) was founded by workers who refused to follow the old communist movement in its retreat into reformism. In 1965, PLM became Progressive Labor Party (PLP), which continues to fight for communist revolution and a society run by and for the international working class.

Nothing inspires fear in the ruling class like militant, multiracial, antiracist, and antisexist class struggle led by Black workers and youth. Their greatest fear is our greatest hope. In a period where outrageous assaults on our class are met with silence, our efforts to mobilize even modest workplace responses are significant (see letter, page 6). Where outrage overflows into spontaneous action, we see our bold leadership and communist ideas embraced by workers and youth in motion. No matter the scale or intensity of the struggle, we seek to up the ante by injecting communist consciousness.

In the face of escalating attacks, we cannot retreat into cynicism or the dead end of elections. As we fight racist and sexist assaults from Small Fascist forces like Gendron, we must join mass movements that the Big Fascists will be determined to control. But these liberal rulers are the same bosses who have segregated and choked to death the working class--from Buffalo to Brooklyn, from Los Angeles to Minneapolis. They have nothing to offer but more fascism and wider war. The millions they have watched die from Covid-19 worldwide pale in comparison to the numbers they're planning to shepherd to slaughter in World War III.

Communists must never again lead workers into the arms of the ruling class. The great replacement that workers of the world need is a dictatorship of the proletariat. Only when armed struggle has driven the capitalist class from power worldwide will we establish new conditions - communist social relations - where racist mass murder first becomes impossible and then a distant memory. If this is the world you want to see then the Progressive Labor Party is your political home.✪

Worcester May Day

‘Kops, the Kourts, the Ku Klux Klan, all Part of the Bosses’ plan

WORCESTER, MA, May 1—The revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party, along with other community organizations, organized a May Day march here. The PLP in New England gave political communist leadership to a march of about 70 workers and youth, with two thirds who are not members (yet).

Prior to the march, we organized several pre-May Day planning meetings and invited members of the Worcester Tenants Union and others to help with security. Considering recent Nazi actions in Boston and Providence, we thought there was a possibility that these fascists would show up and attack the march. Worcester Tenants Union provided street medics and helped with security. There were two disruptions of anti-communists, but we kept them at bay.

We marched to a Worcester Housing Authority apartment building where we’ve organized. Our comrade at the housing project told of struggles they waged against the housing bosses and won, such as getting new laundromats, repairing faulty elevators, and no armed police at monthly tenant meetings, to name a few. His remarks were well received.

Progressive Labor Party's message of no sell-out deals with the bosses, reject the bosses' system of wages and money and our fight for communism were distinct and set us apart from the other May Day events taking place. We hope to win more workers and students to the movement for communism.

Our speeches opposing the U.S./NATO/Russian imperialist war in the Ukraine and the need for Ukrainian and Russian workers to unite to end this imperialist war was sharp, and new to many. At this moment, we are the political vanguard of the anti-war movement. Our chants of “Arab, Jewish, Black and white, Workers of the world unite!" and the “Cops, the Courts and Ku Klux Klan, all a Part of the Bosses’ plan” resonated with the marchers. Many passersby honked their horns in support.

Our calls for continued multiracial unity of workers against systemic racism, sexism, and other disparities, strengthen our resolve to fight for a communist world. We will smash these inequities, borders, politicians, and imperialist wars once and for all.✪

Letter

‘I was terrorized on my way home’

I am a public health student and currently finishing up a pre-med program outside of Los Angeles. I am also an Iraq-war veteran and have seen first hand the level of racism and destruction of imperialist war. Over the last six years I have become close friends with a Progressive Labor Party (PLP) member and his family and have supported communist actions and events including events of families who have lost their loved ones to racist police violence.

As a Black man growing up in Detroit, serving in the military, working as a Metro worker and as a student, I have long hated racism and police terror and this was once again reinforced when I became a victim of such terror on my return home from campus.

No explanation, then a racist interrogation

It was around 6 PM, and I just left my school campus on the Omnitrans train. It was a normal evening until I noticed that the train came to an abrupt stop. We hadn’t moved for about 25 minutes. I went downstairs to the first level and asked another passenger what was going on. She mentioned that the train was stopped by the police.

Suddenly, a voice came over the loudspeaker that directed all passengers to exit from the rear of the train in single file. As I found the door to exit, I walked toward a sheriff and voiced my concern regarding why we were stopped. The sheriff requested to see my ID. After showing them my ID, I was instructed to wait in the parking lot with the rest of the passengers until further instructions.

After waiting in the parking lot for another 30 minutes or so it began to get cool outside. At that time about 15 sheriffs were walking in my direction and towards me. I was then asked again to show my ID. I questioned them, why. I had already shown them my ID. The sergeant said that they got a call that there was “a killer” aboard the train that was about 5’ 10, 240 pounds, 40 yrs. old, wearing a gray sweatshirt.

They then started a terrorizing interrogation process, with multiple sheriffs shooting questions at me at the same time. This whole process was frightening and I was already cold, nervous and agitated and the whole time another sheriff had a loaded shotgun pointed toward my head! These KKKops then had the nerve to command me to calm down.

Not only was I afraid for my life, but I kept thinking to myself “how the hell do you calm down being terrorized like this” on top you accusing me of “fitting the description” of a purported killer on the train!

Capitalism means daily racist terror

It wasn’t until later that night that I learned about the mass shooter incident in Brooklyn in which Frank James, for unclear reasons, opened fire on a train, injuring 10 workers. Without a doubt, the daily racist bombardment of capitalism on workers’ lives is creating untold mental health crises in our class. This is not to condone the actions of Frank James, but to point out that it’s a by-product of this racist capitalist system.

Who knows how many Black workers were terrorized on trains across the country because they “fit the description?”

For nearly two years I have been a supporter of the family of Alex Flores and others who have been killed by KKKops in LA. This experience has also taught me what our sisters and brothers must go through especially when they’re terrified or in a mental health crisis when the police roll up on them!

I am grateful for the support, camaraderie as well as the ideas and fightback of Progressive Labor Party in helping me grapple with this experience as well as understanding how capitalism impacts us on a daily basis.

May Day 2022

Mexico: Confidence in the working class

MEXICO, May 1—On May Day we marched as a contingent of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in Mexico City and Oaxaca. Like every May Day, we organized our members and friends to join the march of the unions and social organizations that are fighting for reforms of capitalism that will improve the lives of workers. These organizations have thousands of workers and students who oppose the liberal bosses represented by the Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) government and are trying to build a more militant reform movement.

We distributed around 2,000 flyers with our communist line and invited all the workers to organize with us and join PLP. Our flier talked about imperialist war and the countries that lead it like Russia, the United States and China for the benefit of their ruling class. The flier attacked the impact of bosses' war on the workers of the whole world. We called for turning the imperialist war into communist revolution. Likewise, we denounced the mega projects like the Mayan Train and Interoceanic Corridor. These two projects are displacing many thousands of workers and will only benefit the capitalist class in Mexico. Our call was to build a communist society that stands up to the bosses and build a Party that organizes to seize power for the benefit of the working class.

Our contingent chanted and was well received by people in the march and in the crowd watching. Our leaflets and got PLP's message of confidence in the working class and the fight for communism out to the thousands of people at the march.

Our flier started with the following paragraph:

"A Revolutionary Communist May Day: Turn Imperialist War into Communist Revolution

The conflict in Ukraine seems to be a step without return to the development of a Third World War led by the imperialists of the U.S., China and Russia, to dominate the world for the benefit of their ruling capitalist classes. All imperialists are enemies of all workers, we must not support any imperialist side, our loyalty is only with the working class of the world."✪

Pakistan: fight against misleaders, fight for workers

PAKISTAN—The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) organized some May Day celebrations with the assistance of our friends and comrades working in different labor, student and professional organizations. We also organized a demonstration with torches in our hands at night which attracted many passersby. Our slogans were, "one world, one flag, one fight, workers of the world unite" and "down with capitalism—long live communism!"

Our comrades talked about the necessity of a united struggle against capitalist oppression, fundamentalism, fascism, racism and nationalism which is dividing the working class. We explained that all divisions and bad ideas are promoted by the bosses to misdirect the anger of the working class and weaken our unity. We also talked about the history of the workers' struggle in Pakistan and concluded that we have to win workers to build a fight outside of the ruling-class puppets' misleadership. Our comrades explained in detail that we need an international communist revolution under the red banner of the PLP!

Misleaders of the working class

This May Day occurred against the backdrop of the bosses' current attempt to divide and use our class for their own dirty capitalist interests. Bosses are using religion, nationalism, racism and gender differences to weaken the working-class movement and, regrettably, they succeeded in their tactics by pacifying many of us, which was very strong in the past. Different union misleaders— on the payroll of bosses—pit workers against each other, fighting over nothing but personality cults.

The bought-out unions never struggled against the contract system, which binds workers to not even talk with each other while at work. Workers did not even get the day off for May Day. That's one of the reasons why the participation of the working class was minimal. The other reason is the International Labour Organization, which is giving support to the misleaders and they are using all that financial support for themselves. These leaders are passing their lives in a lavish style which discourages workers from participating in demonstrations organized by them.

PLP is trying to unite the working class in the reform struggles for basic necessities, like no harassment at workplaces, security, job guarantee, gratuity, sufficient increase in their wages and to get the right to unionize. In this struggle, we must fight for commnist ideas to win out. Join PLP! ✪

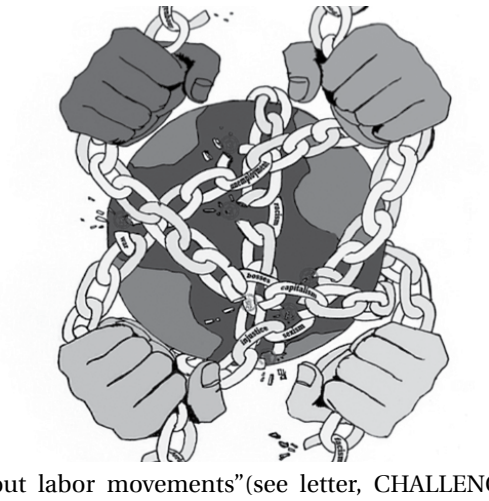
Haiti: the real meaning of May Day

Haiti, May 1—Progressive Labor Party (PLP) celebrated May Day with students, professors and others from a university in a small provincial town in Haiti. We organized a day of activity around the theme "May Day: capitalism questioned." Several comrades from Port-au-Prince joined us, committed to being with us on this historic day, despite the presence of gangs and kidnappers controlling much of the road leading to our town.

First there was a conference and then a class conscious musical performance by a worker who sang about our struggle and the exploitation, which pushes us to act against the capitalist system. The participants heard and understood the words as their own, couched in a language of suffering and strength.

The main speaker's presentation on "the labor movements and the class struggle in Haiti" was like an downpour after a lot of dry weather. It made clear some concepts and historical examples of class struggle from Haiti and around the world. Many people participated freely in the discussion; it was similar to the small schools (tilekòl) that we are used to doing in Haiti.

A student from our solidarity club said that it was a real pleasure to live and participate in the activity: "I thought it [May Day] was the celebration of agriculture, but this day taught me a lot of things



about labor movements"(see letter, CHALLENGE issue, 5/25).

As the student noted, the rulers in Haiti have made May 1 a "celebration" of agriculture and work. But their day flouts the essence of workers' struggles since it is a day of recreational activities and a disgusting display of food so that the bourgeois can gorge themselves while workers and their children are suffering acute hunger.

Our May Day event was a rewarding deconstruction of the bourgeois meaning of May Day. On this day we discuss our working class history of struggles, to see where we are today, to see what we must do to continue the struggle, and above all to allow many more people to learn about workers' struggles. Indeed, our class is the one that suffers all forms of exploitation, and without it capitalist society cannot continue to function. Our consciousness-building work must continue not only to allow people to have information but also to win them to join the fight. Because our life conditions can change only through struggle!

Another student said he thinks conferences help people understand how and why capitalism destroys our lives, that we don't need the bosses, that inequality is not natural, and that we have to fight against this system.

Today in Haiti the socio-political situation is at its worst. People, mostly young people, see their future is uncertain and they wonder who is responsible. They want to understand why they are in misery. And above all, they want to know how to get out of this situation—how to fight back. Conferences like today's are opening the doors to larger discussions with our friends to allow them to understand the essence of the struggle of workers and students. How are these struggles connected; what is our vision for the future? We want a world without profiteering, imperialist wars of conquest, without racism and sexism, a truly egalitarian world. ✪

Colombia: solution is revolution, not votes

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA– Over 50 Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends marched today in the capital to celebrate International Workers' Day, May Day, and the fight for the dictatorship of the working class. While raising our communist flags and banners, our young leaders led our contingent with valor . They took the lead chanting various slogans, including "If you vote, prepare for disappointment," "The only solution is a communist revolution!".

In response to our militancy and revolutionary leadership, several workers observing the march stopped, raised their fists and joined in on the chants. Our commitment to an international communist revolution makes a difference particularly in contrast to the groups led by the revisionists, liberals and fascists who have nothing to offer the workers. These misleaders rely on ideological and political disarmament in order to continue exploiting us and preparing us to serve as cannon fodder in their future military conflicts.

From the start of the march we distributed copies of CHALLENGE and flyers to the mass organizations of students, trade unions and women workers. We exchanged ideas about inter-imperialist rivalry, capitalist decay, the electoral circus, antiracism, a worker-led international revolution and communism. We agreed to keep in touch with a number of workers through our literature.

Bosses electoral circus paralyzes the working class

May Day was commemorated this year under intensified state repression in preparation for the upcoming presidential elections. More militant action on behalf of the working class was effectively demobilized and funneled into cynical support for Gustavo Petro, fake leftist presidential candidate, whose tenure as Mayor of Bogota served as a prime example of why the working class can't rely on liberal misleaders. He directed mass organizations to flock to the polls rather than to mobilize workers and he wants workers to rely on the liberal fascists to "solve our problems." The marches reflected the politicians' propaganda. Speeches lacked a spirit of struggle and turnout was low.

In Colombia as in countries all over the world, the main contradiction is the sharpening splits within the ruling class. This internal battle for control over power, profits, control of natural resources, cheap labor and drug trafficking routes manifests itself in the current electoral situation. The capitalists need us to validate their oppressive fascist system through voting. But many workers know that any politician who assumes the presidency, senate or chamber will only be a puppet of either the mafias or political families that govern this country according to the ruthless logic and needs of world imperialism.

Keep the communist red flag high

We ended our protest in an orderly manner, collecting our flags and taking the necessary precautions to leave in small groups. We are committed to and recognize that only increased confidence in the working class and enthusiasm for the struggle will strengthen our political work. Only the Progressive Labor Party, political struggle and qualitative and quantitative advancement of the workers, under communist leadership, will be able to free us from this criminal system.

Racism, forced displacement and the murder of working-class leaders in general, show us that capitalist democracy is a farce that gives many workers false hopes for change. On this May Day, and every day, we know that only when masses of worker reject racism, sexism, nationalism, wage slavery and the union sellouts can we hope to one day put an end to the capitalist nightmare. Join PLP and fight for international communist revolution!✪

Racist bosses further displace homeless workers

NEW YORK CITY— "They got 250,000 vacant apartments in the city, man…Why am I homeless?" That's what Johnny Grima yelled as NYC police pulled him out of his tent and dragged him toward a police van. "Why are my friends homeless?!" he demanded. The answer is, "because of capitalism." Grima is a homeless worker who is part of a movement demanding permanent housing for every homeless person in New York City. Housing based on need is a commnist idea, and can only be realized under a society run by workers themselves.

The scene unfolded as dozens of cops, a sanitation truck and one outreach worker arrived at Tompkins Square Park on NYC's Lower East Side, to "sweep away" (read: destroy) the homeless encampment as if they were collecting trash, not dealing with people. The racist profit system that can spend billions on weapons for a proxy war with Russia can't provide housing for millions of workers. A Democratic Party President, Governor, Mayor, City Council and State Legislature, "can't afford '' free healthcare or a public college education but has untold billions for prisons and war.

Eight people were arrested for blocking the police. They included organizers from anti-eviction organizations and groups fighting the violent expuslsion of homeless workers' encampments that have become Mayor Eric Adams' calling card to say that New York is "Open for Business."

From March 18 to May 1, there were more than 700 racist expulsions , often returning to the same sites (New York Times, May 5). At the same time, only 39 people got placed in city shelters, which house more than 60,000 people, 90 percent of them Black and Latin families. City-run shelters are so overcrowded and dangerous, especially with Covid-19 again on the rise, that people who agree to go to shelters often leave within weeks and return to the streets.

When Adams was running for office last summer, he promised to turn vacant hotels into permanent housing with on-site services for displaced workers. He has hired more cops to police the subways, where there are 120 encampments in subway tunnels and platforms but has not converted a single hotel to permanent housing for displaced workers, especially those living on the streets of NYC.

What he did do was direct the Rent Guidelines Board to allow the biggest rent increases in nearly a decade for millions of workers and their families. The panel approved increases of 2 to 4 percent on one-year leases and 4 to 6 percent on two-year leases for rent-stabilized units (New York Times, May 5). This racist attack will severely impact Black and Latin families who have had the hardest time surviving the pandemic and will intensify the violence of displacement.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is building a base for communist revolution among all workers and youth, including homeless workers, who more than most, grasp the call of the *Communist Manifesto*, "You have nothing to lose but your chains.✪

As liberal fascist's dogs attack, workers serve and protect

One of our PLP comrades who has experienced being homeless has become active in the housing/homeless struggle. Once a week he goes out with a van full of volunteers to feed about 200 people in an evening. Multiple vans cover the city every night.

They meet up at St. Paul's Church on Park Ave. and prepare a menu of soup, milk, an orange, yogurt, and a bagel. They will be making stops on 34th ST.,Chinatown, outside 100 Center Street (home of the notorious courthouse and the Tombs jail), to the Bowery, to South Ferry, and end up at Penn Station. They feed displaced workers who are currently in shelters, living on the streets, and some low income workers who are not homeless but are drawn to the van. They are Black, Latin, Asian and white.

On this night, he meets a young girl on the subway, 16 or 17 years old, and asks her to come with him to the Coalition of the Homeless to get something to eat and some help. At first, she agrees, but then changes her mind and continues to ask for money or food on the train. He sees three other displaced men workers sleeping on the train. What he doesn't see is any of the outreach workers or police that Adams has promised to put in the subways. He also doesn't see any at any of his stops. The Coalition distributes "Midnight Run" fliers telling people where they can get emergency help, but no presence from the City at all.

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Put communism in students' hands

The Monday after the Buffalo shooting I bumped into a new friend from the neighborhood on the train, another dad taking his kid to school. He's active in local politics, putting on a very successful, multiracial open mic every ten days where long-time and newer residents of our rapidly gentrifying neighborhood hear from each other, show talent, etc. I got to announce May Day a few weeks ago here, and at least one neighbor came and checked it out as a result.

On Monday this friend wanted to talk about Buffalo, and in particular why the response to the loss of ten Black lives at the hands of a racist mass murderer has been so muted. My friend's urgency pushed me to demand the principal at a school where I work read a statement condemning racist mass murder, which he did, to 6000+ students. This statement was passed around among comrades, was improved upon and read at other schools.

In my classroom I have guided high school seniors in using a communist analysis to understand current affairs, government and economics since September. Due to my own anticommunism I usually adopt the approach of offering the 'communist take' on the matter at hand, which is how I handled the first class on Monday. The discussion was okay, not great. It's always best to never pretend nothing happened when something did. In my second class I sort of switched it up. I said very little to start off, just asked: "how would a communist society help prevent or ensure that a shooting like the one in Buffalo never happens in the first place?" I got three responses that showed me some of my students have been thinking a lot about communism:

"In order to get to a communist society the working class would have had to overcome a lot of racism, and so this young man is less likely to have grown up around racist ideas."

"In a communist society workers are not simply replaceable, everyone has a role. So 'replacement theory' would not win people over like it can these days."

"Under communism there would be no guns."

All three are so true, though none of us will live to see the last one. What was most striking is that two of those communist solutions were ones I hadn't mentioned during the prior class. The working class has fresh insight when communists put communism in their hands.

What a day! Being a communist does not insulate any of us from the deep sense of helplessness an event like the Buffalo massacre can bring on when the boss-taught lesson of passivity is setting the tone. I try to make communist politics a part of my day, which means that new friends and students come to expect more from me in times of crisis. Older friends know the ups and downs of the struggle and form a solid basis of high expectation. With sharp struggle from my club I am less prone to let these folks down. Still, on Monday it was the working class, not my club, that pressed me into action. I was reminded that workers and youth retain a deep desire for and agreement with communism. Only the PLP can make concrete these abstract communist tendencies. The working class will never let you down. Good thing we have Challenge! I look forward to using it this issue.

PL'ers protest racist massacre

The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) held signs at Main and Austin streets Wednesday in front of Gala Supermarket before reading aloud the names of the 13 victims of last weekend's shooting in Buffalo New York. PLP called for an end to fascist violence by means of communist revolution and for support of the working class in Buffalo.

A PLayer said that they wanted to bring attention to the shooting while calling for a mass, militant, multiracial force against racism and fascism.

PLP also denounced racist conspiracy theories and lies such as the Great Replacement Theory, a theory of racist, demographic replacement that is believed to have inspired the racist shooter in Saturday's mass shooting in Buffalo (see editorial, page 2).

★★★★★

'break this chain of domination'

Today I participated in my first May Day activity in Haiti. May Day is the international day to celebrate the struggle led by workers around the world. Here in our town we celebrated it with a conference about the labor movements and class struggle in Haiti since 1986. 1986 was a special year in our history, when the hated Duvalier dictatorship was overthrown by workers and students after more than 30 years of terror.

The conference began with Karl Marx's definition of social class as: a person's relationship to his/her labor (which allows a worker to identify his/her work as a thing which is not his/hers, but belongs to the capitalists); the consciousness of a class for itself (where the contradictions of the interests of the workers and the bosses come into conflict); and finally the class struggle in which the working class battles against its exploitation.

We discussed what the working class is, how it is exploited, how workers learn to act together as one in face of this exploitation (the economic solution, as workers have done since the beginning of the industrial revolution in France and England with the formation of labor unions), and the need for political—communist—solutions to end this exploitation once and for all.

Thus, we defined three dimensions of the workers' movement: the organizational dimension of trade unionism; the political dimension of a revolutionary communist party to lead; and the transformational dimension of the working class transforming itself and society.

Historically, in England, for example, the State (government) passed laws that took away the traditional rights to land and a way of life of the rural peasantry and forced them into factories, proletarianizing them along the way. This was the beginning of the modern conquest of the working class.

In Haiti, the "modernization" began with the colonizing by the Spanish invaders and their genocide against the indiginous population, and continued with the enslavement of stolen Africans by the French invaders.

This is called the primitive accumulation of capital—literally stealing wealth and putting it in the hands of a small minority.

We concluded that we must understand the meaning of May Day, this day commemorating the struggle of workers in Haiti, and around the world: it is to understand the ordeal that the workers face. We must organize and transform ourselves in order to break the chains of class domination, so that we can live as "la race humaine" –the human race, and run society in order to enjoy the fruits of our labor, in our own interests, and in our well-being.

I hope that this conference will be the beginning of a stronger relationship between us, university students and teachers and workers, as we join in the class struggle and begin the process of transforming ourselves and our society.

★★★★★

Veterans in class war give leadership at May Day

I was moved by the participation of two friends at our May Day party. A friend I met before I retired from the Chicago Transit Authority spoke at our May Day March for the second year in a row. He has been working hard for close to ten years to organize the transit workers to not only fight for a better contract but to fight for the rights of homeless workers, to win transit workers to fight against what capitalism has done to our class and to the world. He has brought the fight against racism into our reform struggles on the job. His speech this year urged everyone to join mass organizations and build a movement so we can take power. He sees capitalism as the enemy and reads CHALLENGE. (https://youtu.be/QcCRFg3JnUw–his video on May Day)

A retired health care worker stepped up to the bullhorn when there was a lull at the opening rally. She led us in some chants. "The Only Solution Is Communist Revolution!" rang out in the streets. This woman was in PLP over 30 years ago but kept up ties with us. She brought a friend to the march who had also been in the Party, and also was here for the second year in a row.

Also five friends and comrades from Detroit drove to Chicago for May Day! One of the comrades from Detroit gave an inspiring speech. During the ride back to Detroit they had good discussions and said they want to come back to Chicago for other events.

We need to win our friends to join PLP and fight for communist revolution. No amount of organizing for reforms will put an end to the brutality, injustice and suffering that capitalism creates. Only a communist revolution led by PLP can and will smash capitalism and build communism.

★★★★★

On the bus ride to May Day

This was the first time in two years that workers and students from Washington, DC and Baltimore came to New York City for Progressive Labor Party's (PLP) May Day march. En route to our May Day march, two women leaders led a program.They read revolutionary poems and led a singing of "The Internationale." This year marked the change in leadership to younger comrades. Confidence in them was well placed.

A teacher talked about the struggles teachers have had during the last two years. Inconsistent health care guidance caused many students and staff to contract Covid-19. Staffing shortages were dire as teachers struggled to cover each other. A PLP member attacked the racism inherent in public health and medicine and cited the Boston article in CHALLENGE that showed PLP fighting back against the racists who wanted to deny health care to Black workers with heart disease. Protests against Moderna in Boston this week highlighted the importance to the capitalists of profit – not sharing vaccine patents with the world.

A highlight of the march was the speech from Baltimore's West Wednesday organizers about the police murder of Anthony Anderson and a daughter lost to police tactics.

We tried to protect each other from Covid-19 by wearing masks on the bus and eating food outside the bus on breaks. It is up to us to keep each other safe.

★★★★★

GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

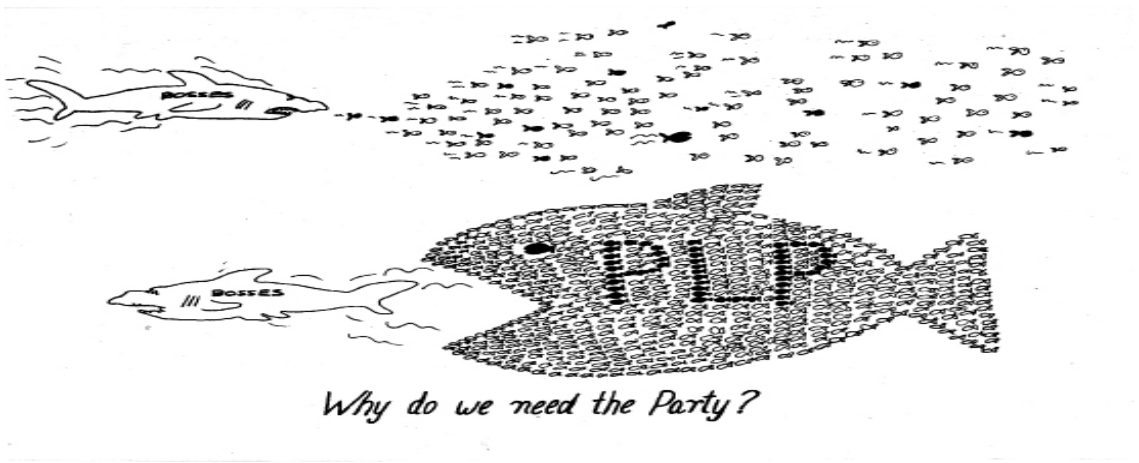
Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

NYC Mayor, kkkops pit workers against workers in racist crackdown



NEW YORK CITY, May 25—Almost three years into a pandemic where the city's bosses left workers for dead, cutting services and jobs, their solutions to working class desperation are racist crackdowns targeting the homeless and lower income workers, largely Black and Latin.

The bosses know they are responsible for increases in workers attacking workers. It's the bosses who create the conditions leaving workers with mental illness, drug addictions, and homelessness by putting profit before their lives, the real crime. But rather than fix the underlying issues, they know blaming certain workers, sowing divisions among all, is best to protect their profits.

Under communism no worker would be abandoned. We build a society around workers' needs: food, clothes, shelter and medical care without a profit motive. That is the only way out of this crisis.

Liberal mayor further displaces workers

Since taking office, Mayor Eric Adams has worked to please his cryptocurrency overlords (NY1, 12/3/21) and real estate developers who financed his election campaign (The City, 4/18/21), announcing plans to evict homeless encampments around the city. Adams enlisted his paid thugs in the New York Police Department and the Department of Sanitation to not only destroy these campsites, but arrest those who refused to comply with his racist displacement agenda. These attacks have even included the police department's Strategic Response Group, a counterterrorism unit!

Racist shelter plans

Paying lip service to critics, the mayor has sent representatives from the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) with the cops, to try convincing the homeless workers to accept placement in dangerous shelters and supposedly safe haven spaces.

During one recent eviction in the East Village, homeless workers denounced both options. (Vice News, 4/6).

But though there are more than enough vacant apartments to house every worker, the ruling class's bureaucratic incompetence means most sit unoccupied (New York Daily News, 4/11).

Bosses strike underground

Many displaced workers will find themselves riding the subways for shelter. Even there, they aren't safe from the city's fascist and racist removals. In February, Adams announced his plans to rout displaced people from the trains, calling them a "cancer" (Independent, 2/18).

These attacks on workers have already backfired dangerously. Frank James, the suspect in April's mass shooting at a Brooklyn subway station, was in and out of shelters; he also had online videos attacking Adams for his homeless plan, saying it was "doomed to fail," and describing his own bad experiences with city outreach workers in previous decades (ABC 7 News, 4/13).

Crackdown ensnares immigrants in racist hold

The crackdown's fervor has predictably included others as well. Recent viral video showed the kkkops arresting an immigrant Latin woman worker for selling mangoes on a subway platform. This racist, sexist attack further shows that the crackdown isn't about "public safety," but rather making things more palatable for the finance capital and real estate development bosses Adams answers to.

Adams' response to the outrage over this incident? Claiming that if the pigs didn't arrest this woman, then "next day, it's propane tanks being on the subway system. The next day, it's barbecuing" (amNew York, 5/9).

'Farebeaters' included

In January, after an MTA board member claimed, without any evidence, that 99 percent of people commiting subway crimes evade paying the fare (Fox 5, 1/18,) the ruling class mobilized to include "farebeaters" in their racist crosshairs. Adams has deployed even more useless cops to terrorize workers during this initative (Curbed, 4/11).

MTA bosses are now telling bus operators to keep their rear doors closed to prevent free rides (Curbed, 5/9). In April, MTA Chairman Janno Lieber announced a plan to save New York's "spirit" by creating new ways to stop fare evasion, claiming it costs the agency $500 million annually (Gothamist, 4/26). Racist Lieber neglected to mention that figure is nothing compared to the billions the agency owes Wall Street.

Adams' racist attacks on workers shows that no matter who is in office, be it a fascist Republican or wolf in sheep's clothing liberal Democrat, we know they will never have our interests at heart. For a world where nobody will be homeless, or deal with the brutal conditions that cause it, we will continue our fight for a world run by workers.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Capitalism kills in more ways than one

JACC Heart Failure, 5/2022–The aim of this study was to assess trends in heart failure (HF) hospitalizations among young adults. The National Inpatient Sample database was analyzed to identify adults aged 18 to 45 years who were hospitalized for HF between 2004 and 2018.

Black adults (50.1 percent) had a significantly higher proportion of HF hospitalizations compared with White (31.9 percent) and Hispanic adults (12.2 percent) throughout the study period. Nearly half of patients (45.8 percent) lived in zip codes in the lowest quartile of national household income.

German Green Party joins the war train

Der Spiegel, 5/6–The Greens have long been regarded as peace-loving idealists. They are now among the loudest voices calling for heavy weapons to be delivered to Ukraine and have placed considerable pressure on German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to do so. The pacifists of yore have gone quiet and now the talk is of tanks and howitzers.

With his long hair, most Germans had until now viewed…[Green Party Parliamentarian Anton] Hofreiter as the epitome of the incorrigible hippy. Such is the situation this spring: Hofreiter, the Ph.D. botanist who can name all the plants and flowers while walking through Berlin's Tiergarten park, is now Hofreiter the weapons expert, who lectures on munitions calibers and crews of infantry fighting vehicles.

Instead of playing the pacifists and slamming on the brakes when it comes to delivering heavy weaponry to Ukraine, the Greens are the ones who are calling for more, upping the pressure on their partners, particularly the SPD, in the process.

Squad votes for New Green War

Unherd.com, 5/13–The $40 billion foreign aid package to Ukraine — the second and largest aid package proposed by the Biden administration — nearly shuttled through Congress at a speed not seen since the New Deal era…members of The Squad, the Democrats' most prominent progressive group in Congress, have been curiously silent on the issue. …no members of the Squad (or any Democrat) voted against [the bill]...only Cori Bush…chose to speak out about the bill. There has been a Ukraine-shaped blind spot for most of The Squad since war broke out…Indeed, it was Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez who first commented on the war in February 23 when she tweeted:

> *Russia's invasion of Ukraine is indefensible...any military action must take place with Congressional approval.*

Capitalists will starve millions this year

Economist, 5/19–Ukraine's exports of grain and oilseeds have mostly stopped and Russia's are threatened. Together, the two countries supply 12% of traded calories. Wheat prices, up 53% since the start of the year, jumped a further 6% on May 16th, after India said it would suspend exports because of an alarming heatwave.

The high cost of staple foods has already raised the number of people who cannot be sure of getting enough to eat by 440m, to 1.6bn. Nearly 250m are on the brink of famine. If, as is likely, the war drags on and supplies from Russia and Ukraine are limited, hundreds of millions more people could fall into poverty. Political unrest will spread, children will be stunted and people will starve.

Nuclear war coming our way

Foreign Affairs, 5/20–Russia's invasion of Ukraine has raised the specter of nuclear war…But if China attempted to forcibly invade Taiwan and the United States came to Taipei's aid, the threat of escalation could outstrip even the current nerve-wracking situation in Europe.

A recent war game, conducted by the Center for a New American Security…demonstrated just how quickly such a conflict could escalate…The game demonstrated that China's military modernization and expansion of its nuclear arsenal—not to mention the importance Beijing places on unification with Taiwan—mean that, in the real world, a fight between China and the United States could very well go nuclear.

China has historically possessed only a few hundred ground-based nuclear weapons. But last year, nuclear scholars…identified three missile silo fields under construction in the Xinjiang region… The U.S. Department of Defense projects that by 2030, China will have around 1,000 deliverable warheads…Based on these projections, Chinese leaders may believe that as early as five years from now the PLA will have made enough conventional and nuclear gains that it could fight and win a war to unify with Taiwan.

56-year anniversary

The Cultural Revolution Uprising for Workers' Power

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (GPCR) was an historic uprising of the working class led by the most advanced communist ideas at the time. It was the first time the working class attempted to take state power back from a former communist party that had returned to capitalism.

The leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Mao Tse Tung, initially encouraged the Cultural Revolution to get rid of a few people in the leadership of the Party. But the left forces in the Cultural Revolution recognized that the official Communist Party was already in the hands of a capitalist ruling class at the time the GPCR began. They argued that the vast majority (90 percent) of the leading cadres were part of that oppressor class, that the People's Liberation Army (or PLA, the military) was its tool to smash the real left and maintain power. They said that the new "red" bourgeoisie had emerged during the 17 years from 1949-66 from the ranks of the revolutionaries themselves and, therefore, that the GPCR was not, as Mao said, a struggle to consolidate proletarian rule. It was the first revolution in history to attempt to take power back from the fake "communists," known as revisionists. This analysis led the left workers and students leading the Cultural Revolution to carry out the following political campaigns.

1) They demanded the ouster of the chief representative of China's "red" capitalists, Chou En-Lai, along with the high-ranking economic and administrative ministers he was sheltering.

2) They demanded that the GPCR be carried into the Army Officer Corps, which they saw as a part of the new ruling class. They engaged in arms seizures from the PLA, raiding depots and arms trains, on the principle that a revolution to overthrow the bourgeoisie had to be an armed struggle of the masses.

3) They opposed China's foreign policies of alliance with capitalist countries. To carry this through they seized foreign ships in the harbors, burned the British consulate in August of 1967, launched a liberation struggle in Hong Kong, seized Soviet arms going to Vietnam over China's railroad lines and opposed China's nuclear development program.

4) They began to discuss and implement the formation of a new communist party, given their assumption that the CPC had become the party of the bourgeois apparatus that was restoring capitalism under the ideological cover of a fake brand of communism.

The left forces presented a view of what was going on in the GPCR which was contradictory to the official views of the CPC under Mao, who claimed "95 percent of the cadres are good" vs. the left-wing forces in the GPCR who said "90 percent of the political cadres must step aside."

Fake "communists" spread capitalist lies

To amplify how completely the Chinese bosses have now moved to capitalism, they now tell the same lies about the Cultural Revolution as the U.S. bosses. The distorted historical narrative told by the capitalists who currently rule China, and retold and amplified by capitalists around the world, is that the Cultural Revolution was "10 lost years" in which the Chinese economy was on the brink of collapse.

In fact, U.S. economist John Kenneth Golbaith wrote in 1972 that an economic growth rate of 10

percent in China was plausible. This is an expansion rate that rivaled Japan similar to the rate touted as the "Chinese Miracle" after the restoration of capitalism in the late 1970s (NY Times, 11/26/1972).

The participation of millions of workers and farmers in political meetings did not cause production to stop, or even to slow down. The criticism of factory or farm managers to a previously unheard of degree, and active involvement in "non-productive" activities that amounted to having a say in the running of society, in fact energized the masses of workers and farmers.

The Communists accomplished feats that would be called miracles under capitalism, starting with spreading literacy across a country of a billion people, introducing health care and ending starvation in what had been one of the poorest countries in the world prior to the communist revolution. Their efforts in the GPCR showed the importance of continuing the struggle for workers' power even after a revolution. But to ultimately succeed in building a communist society we have to look at the errors of the CPC as well. While the left forces in the GPCR did so many great things they ultimately were defeated and capitalism was firmly established in China. It is important for us to try to understand why the GPCR failed.

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

Communist movements will inevitably make many mistakes, big and small. The Progressive Labor Party previously believed in fighting for socialism as an intermediary step towards communism. Now, largely from looking at what happened in the former Soviet Union and China, we are fighting for the building of a communist society directly. It is not the only correction we have made or will have to make going forward. For the working class to take and hold power it is essential that the revolutionary communist movement be able to correct ideological errors and bad practices. Criticism and self-criticism of our ideas and activity is the only way we can deal with problems and mistakes that arise. The leadership of the Party especially, has to honestly and soberly evaluate their own ideas and practice and be open to criticism from others.

Perhaps the main weakness that led to the defeat of the GPCR was the belief in the cult of the individual surrounding Mao Tse Tung. A big weakness of the old communist movement was that it built up individual leaders as people who could do no wrong. While the left forces in China recognized that China had moved back to capitalism, they held on to the wrong idea that Mao, the leader of the country, was not a supporter of the backward changes. He was and ultimately Mao used his influence and his control of the army to put down the revolution.

Struggle, Fail; Struggle WIN

The lessons of the GPCR are one of the driving forces in history that has given PLP the confidence that the working class will fight for a communist future. It has also helped us understand the need to continually struggle against the capitalist ideology of individualism in ourselves and in the communist movement. The effort of the working class in the GPCR has been an invaluable contribution to the fight for communism.

Other lessons learned from the GPCR:

We need a mass communist party that has confidence in the working class to bring about the revolutionary transformation of society.We are building a party that is open to everyone who wants to fight for a communist future for the working class. People can make contributions in many different ways and the more people who participate in building the Party and ultimately running society the better off we will be.

We must breakdown the separation between "experts" and "followers." In CHALLENGE, we try to explain what is going on in the world as well as have articles on fighting back in the class struggle. We believe that we can only understand the world by trying to change it and knowledge and understanding comes out of putting communist ideas into practice. We call this "better red than expert!"

The struggle for communism will continue for generations. The working class taking state power is only the beginning of the fight to build a communist society.

Commemorating the 56th anniversary of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution is an opportunity to struggle with our coworkers and friends to renew our efforts to smash this racist, sexist, imperialist system of capitalism once and for all. Fighting back also means understanding what previous generations in this fight have done – both right and wrong. As the world lurches toward fascism and inter-imperialist war, we have our work cut out for us. We, heirs to the struggle for a communist world, truly honor the heroic masses who fought in the GPCR by organizing on our jobs and in our mass organizations for armed communist revolution. Dare to struggle, dare to win!✪

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CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons. The next deadline is the **Friday evening of June 5** Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See box on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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